| Approved as to Form and Legality | Date                                    |
|----------------------------------|---|
| //www                            | August 14, 2014                         |
| County Counsel                   | *************************************** |

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HEREBY REQUEST THE COUNTY CLERK TO PLACE A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 WITH REGARD TO THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THE IMPOSITION OF A FIVE CENT FEE TO BE COLLECTED FOR EVERY SINGLE-USE PLASTIC DISPOSABLE SHOPPING BAG PROVIDED TO CUSTOMERS IN MERCER COUNTY

WHEREAS, billions of single-use plastic bags are used annually in the United States but a de minimis number are recycled; and,

WHEREAS, a large number of single-use plastic carryout bags are distributed by retail establishments in Mercer County each year; and,

WHEREAS, most of these single-use carry out bags are made from plastic or other material that does not readily decompose; and,

WHEREAS, the use of single-use carry plastic bags litter the environment, block storm drains; and the clean-up costs of which are borne by the taxpayers of Mercer County on a daily basis; and,

WHEREAS, Mercer County wishes to gauge the sentiment of the residents of Mercer County to the implementation of a five cent per bag fee for the use of single-use plastic carry out bags at every grocery, drug, and convenience store; and,

Clerk to the Board

|            |     |     |      |      | RE  | COR  | D OF VOTE  |     |     | •    |      | <u> </u> |      |
|------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|------------|-----|-----|------|------|----------|------|
| FREEHOLDER | Aye | Nay | N.V. | Abs. | Res | Sec. | FREEHOLDER | Aye | Nay | N.V. | Abs. | Res.     | Sec. |
| Cannon     | X   |     |      |      |     |      | Frisby     | X   | 1   |      | ļ    |          |      |
| Carabelli  | X   |     |      |      |     |      | Walter     | X   |     |      |      | 1        |      |
| Cimino     |     | X   |      |      |     |      | Koontz     | X   |     |      |      |          |      |
| Colavita   | X   |     |      |      |     |      |            | 1   |     |      |      |          |      |

X-Indicates Vote

Abs.—Absent

N.V.—Not Voting

Res.—Resolution Moved

Sec.—Resolution Seconded

-2 -

WHEREAS, consumers can avoid the five cent per plastic bag fee by using reusable bags; and,

WHEREAS, exempt from the imposition of the fee may be pharmacies for the distribution of prescription drugs, nonprofits, those individuals who qualify for the supplemental nutritional assistance program (SNAP), and for the distribution of fresh produce and meat products; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Executive and the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby request the Mercer County Clerk cause to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming general election on November 4, 2014 the following non-binding public referendum:

"IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE DISPOSABLE BAG POLLUTION IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THE RESIDENTS OF MERCER COUNTY SUPPORT A FIVE CENT (\$.05) FEE FOR EACH SINGLE-USE PLASTIC DISPOSABLE BAG PROVIDED WHEN SHOPPING IN ANY GROCERY, DRUG, OR CONVENIENCE STORE IN MERCER COUNTY AS AN INCENTIVE TO USE RECYCLABLE BAGS"

and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Board shall forward a copy of this Resolution to each municipality throughout Mercer County and to each County throughout the State of New Jersey.

Jules N. Warthy
Clerk to the Board